

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1254
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2000
OPENING OF LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONY
B.K. PARTHASARATHI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have any plan to offer long distance telephony to private companies; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) & (b): The Government has already decided to open long distance telephony to private sector companies and the guidelines for the same have been issued on 13.08.2000. The salient features of the guidelines are:

- (i) Indian registered companies can apply for licence.
- (ii) Free and open competition without any restriction on the number of entrants.
- (iii) The licence is issued for 20 years, extendable by 10 years at a time.
- (iv) The licencees are to pay one time entry fee.
- (v) fixed revenue share as licence fee for the entire licence period.